*AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS*

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computer functioning as a computer-based network switch, comprising:

a first network ~~adaptor~~ adapter for connecting to an external network;

a plurality of second network adapters each for forming a connection with a network server in a private network;

a switching component for receiving network communication data from the external network through the first network ~~adaptor~~ adapter and directing the received network communication data to the second network adapters for transmission to the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto; and

a test control component for selectively disabling the second network adapters to create connection failure conditions of the connections between the second network adapters and the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A computer as in claim 1, further including a third network ~~adaptor~~ adapter for connecting the test control component to the external network to allow the test control component to communicate with the external network.

Claim 3 (original): A computer as in claim 1, wherein the switching component is programmed to operate on network communication data passing therethrough to create a communication test condition other than a connection failure condition.

Claim 4 (original): A computer as in claim 3, wherein the switching component is programmed to delay network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 5 (original): A computer as in claim 3, wherein the switching component is programmed to selectively drop network communication data.

Claim 6 (original): A computer as in claim 3, wherein the switching component is programmed to reorder data in a communication stream passing therethrough.

Claim 7 (original): A computer as in claim 3, wherein the switching component is programmed to introduce errors into network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A computer as in claim 1, wherein the switching component is programmed for monitoring flows of network communication data therethrough from the respective network servers in the private network to the external network.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for controlling a plurality of network adapters in a computer to create test conditions for testing network servers in a private network, the network servers connected to the network adapters, comprising:

a switching component for receiving network communication data from an external network and directing the received network communication data to the network adapters for transmission to the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto;

a test control for selectively disabling the network servers to create connection failure conditions for connections between the network adapters and the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto.

Claim 10 (original): A computer-readable medium as in claim 9, wherein the switching component includes further computer-executable instructions for operating on network communication data passing therethrough to create a test condition other than a connection failure condition.

Claim 11 (original): A computer-readable medium as in claim 10, wherein the switching component includes computer-executable instructions for selectively buffering network communication data passing therethrough for a delay period.

Claim 12 (original): A computer-readable medium as in claim 10, wherein the switching component includes computer-executable instructions for selectively dropping network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 13 (original): A computer-readable medium as in claim 10, wherein the switching component includes computer-executable instructions for reordering data in a communication stream passing therethrough.

Claim 14 (original): A computer-readable medium as in claim 10, wherein the switching component includes computer-executable instructions for introducing errors into network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 15 (original): A computer-readable medium as in claim 9, wherein the test control includes computer-executable instructions for communicating with a server testing controller to receive commands regarding testing of the network servers.

Claim 16 (original): A computer-readable medium as in claim 9, wherein the switching component includes further computer-executable instructions for monitoring flows of network communication data from the respective network servers to the external network.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A system for testing network servers in a private network, comprising:

a computer functioning as a computer-based network switch, including a plurality of network adapters for forming connections to the network servers, a switching component for receiving network communication data from an external network and directing the received network communication data to the network adapters for transmission to the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto, and a test control for selectively disabling the network adapters;

a plurality of client computers connected to the external network for communication with the network servers in the private network through the computer-based network switch;

a server testing controller connected to the external network for coordinating testing of the network servers, including instructing the client computers to send network communication data to the network servers in the private network through the computer-based network switch, and causing the test control to selectively disable the network adapters to create connection failure conditions of the connections between the network adapters and the network servers in the private network connected thereto.

Claim 18 (original): A system as in claim 17, wherein the switching component is controllable to operate on network communication data passing therethrough to create a test condition other than a connection failure condition.

Claim 19 (original): A system as in claim 18, wherein the switching component is controllable to selectively buffer network communication data passing therethrough to introduce a delay.

Claim 20 (original): A system as in claim 18, wherein the switching component is controllable to selectively drop network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 21 (original): A system as in claim 18, wherein the switching component is controllable to reorder network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 22 (original): A system as in claim 18, wherein the switching component is controllable to introduce errors in network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 23 (original): A system as in claim 17, wherein the switching component is programmed for monitoring flows of network communication data from the network servers to the network clients.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of testing a plurality of network servers in a private network, comprising the steps of:

connecting the network servers to a plurality of network adapters;

receiving network communication data from an external network;

directing the received network communication data to the network adapters for transmission to the respective network servers in the private network connected thereto;

selectively disabling the network adapters to create connection failure conditions of connections between the network adapters and the network servers in the private network connected thereto.

Claim 25 (original): A method as in claim 24, further including the step of operating on the network communication data received from the external network to create a test condition other than a connection failure condition before sending the network communication data to the network servers through the network adapters.

Claim 26 (original): A method as in claim 25, wherein the step of operating includes selectively buffering network communication data passing therethrough for a delay period.

Claim 27 (original): A method as in claim 25, wherein the step of operating includes selectively dropping network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 28 (original): A method as in claim 25, wherein the step of operating includes reordering network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 29 (original): A method as in claim 25, wherein the step of operating includes introducing errors to network communication data passing therethrough.

Claim 30 (original): A method as in claim 24, further including the step of monitoring flows of network communication data from the network servers to the external network.